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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/986,622

11/09/2001

Giacomo Stefano Roba

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08/16/2007

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
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WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

HOFFMANN, JOHN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/986,622	ROBA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John Hoffmann	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-37, 40-45 and 51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-37, 40-45 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "102" has been used to designate both a fiber (figure 10) and part of a support member (figure 4). One can also see other such numbering problems with figure 10. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 34-37, 40-45 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickinson 2002/0029591 (or Harvey 5284499) in view of Kazuya JP 08091862 (as per Applicant's translation thereof), Strackenbrock 5160359, and Bair 4547644 and optionally in view of Harding 4988374 and Kaiser 4030901.

See the prior Office action for the manner in which the combination of references would have all of the limitations of the claims.

Claims 34-37, and 40-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickinson 2002/0029591 (or Harvey 5284499) in view of Kazuya JP 08091862 (as per Applicant's translation thereof), Bair 4547644, and Miller 4678490 and optionally in view of Harding and Kaiser 4030901.

See the prior Office action for the manner in which the combination of references would have all of the limitations of the claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 31 July 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is argued that Examiner asserts that Harding and Kaiser discloses the claim recitation: " support collar adapted to slide the optical preform horizontally during operation of the drawing furnace". No rejection contains such an assertion. Rather the rejection relies on two points: 1) the limitation is inherently met, and 2) such would have been obvious.

It is further argued that nowhere does Harding disclose that the chuck 7 is adapted to slide. That is largely irrelevant because the Office has not relied on or otherwise made such an assertion.

Applicant then contend that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not infer from Harding's silence that the chuck is adapted to slide. This too is irrelevant because the Office does not use such an inference in the rejection.

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It is also argued that Harding does not indicate that the chuck is not connected to any other structure. This also is not very relevant because the rejection is not based on such an indication.

At the bottom of page 10 of the response applicant argues that a particular "observation...is not a proper basis for finding...." This is also irrelevant. The rejection is does not use such as a basis for finding. Rather it is an observation by Examiner to show why Applicant's argument was incorrect.

It is argued that the issue is what the prior art would have reasonably taught. Examiner is confused by this. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

There is nothing which requires a consideration as to what the prior art teaches. The rejection is based on inherency and what would have been obvious – for the limitation in question.

The same sort of arguments that applicant makes with regards to Harding, are made with Kaiser. They are not convincing for the same reasons given above: namely, it does not matter that Kaiser does not disclose/teach the claimed features – because the rejection does not rely on such. Rather, the rejection is based on inherency or obviousness of the features/limitations.

Regarding *In re Stevens* it is argued that this case law is not applicable because the prior art in the Stevens case taught all of the claim limitations – but the present case does not. Examiner relies on Stevens to show the common sense concept of adjustability is generally not a patentable concept. Applicant does not dispute the finding that adjustability is a obvious modification.

Applicant disputes the Office's use of the KSR decision because the Office did not establish a design need or market pressure. This is not very relevant. The rejection relies on KSR merely to show that something based on common sense and ordinary skill (in this case, adjustability) is likely not a product of innovation.

The comments regarding claim 51 have been noted. As indicated in the rejection, all of the limitations required by the claims have been previously addressed. Whether no prior art rejection has been applied to claim 51 is largely irrelevant because all of the limitations are clearly met for the reasons of record.

MPEP 714.04 Claims Presented in Amendment With No Attempt To Point Out Patentable Novelty

In the consideration of claims in an amended case where no attempt is made to point out the patentable novelty, the claims should not be allowed. See 37 CFR 1.111 and MPEP § 714.02.

An amendment failing to point out the patentable novelty which the applicant believes the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made may be held to be not fully responsive and a time period set to furnish a proper reply if the statutory period has expired or almost expired (MPEP § 714.03). However, if the claims as amended are clearly open to rejection on grounds of record, a final rejection should generally be made.

37 CFR § 1.111 Reply by applicant or patent owner to a non-final Office action.

says:

The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references.

Applicant has not pointed out any patentable novelty in claim 51 – thus it is presumed that applicant is not aware of any beyond that was elsewhere addressed. Claim 51 was clearly open to rejection on grounds of record.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

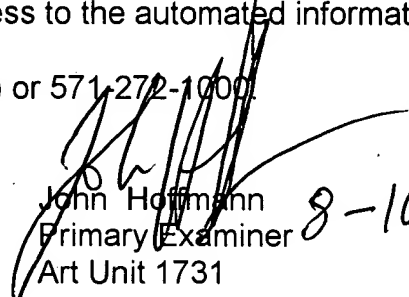
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hoffmann whose telephone number is (571) 272 1191. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00- 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


John Hoffmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

8-10-07

jmh